

him. Hooper and Rogers were among the first victims of this English inquisition ; the turn of the other leaders, Latimer, Ridley, and finally Cranmer, soon came.

The scene at the martyrdom of Ridley and Hooper harrowed the nerves even of a generation hardened by such scenes of brutality. They were literally roasted over a fire of green faggots, and suffered the most excruciating torture before death gave the finishing touch to a heroism that convinced England at last that Protestantism was a creed worth dying as well as living for. Here is the account of the monstrous suffering to which Hooper was subjected at Gloucester, as given in Foxe's "Acts and Monuments." " Then commandment was given that the fire should be kindled. But there were brought no more green faggots than two horses could carry upon their backs, so it was a good while before it burned. At length it burned about him, but the wind blew the flame from him, so that he was only touched by the fire. A few dry faggots were then brought, and a new fire kindled, and that burned at the lower parts, but did small power above because of the wind, except that it burned his hair, and scorched his skin a little. While he was thus suffering, he prayed, saying mildly and not very loud, ' O Jesus, Thou son of David, have mercy upon me and receive my soul.' He wiped both his eyes with his hands, and beholding the people, said with a loud voice, ' For God's love, good people, let me have more fire;' and all this while his lower parts burned, for the faggots were so few that the flame did not burn strongly at his upper parts. A third fire was shortly after kindled, which was more extreme than the others; and then the bladders of gunpowder broke, but this did him little good, as they were so misplaced, and the wind had such power. In this fire he prayed with a loud voice, ' Lord Jesus have mercy upon me ! Lord Jesus receive my spirit!'³ And these were the last words he was heard to utter. But even when he was black in the mouth, and his tongue swollen so that he could not speak, yet his lips moved till they were shrunk to the gums; and he knocked his breast with his hands until one of his arms fell off, and then knocked still with the other, when the fat, water, and blood dropped out at his finger's ends, until by renewing the fire his strength was gone, and